

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No

/GB2004/004435

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B5/00 A61B3/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 582 168 A (YU NAI T ET AL) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10) column 3, lines 12-36 column 4, line 64 - column 5, line 26 column 5, lines 55-59 column 6, lines 12-25 column 6, line 32 - column 7, line 17	1,7, 9-11,13, 14,17-19
A		20,34
A	US 6 226 089 B1 (HAKAMATA KAZUO) 1 May 2001 (2001-05-01) column 2, line 26 - column 14, line 27	1-47
A	EP 0 722 692 A (HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO) 24 July 1996 (1996-07-24) column 3, line 31 - column 7, line 26	34-47

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 January 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/01/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 48, 49
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 48,49

The subject-matter of claims 48 and 49 is not clearly defined and no meaningful search is possible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

/GB2004/004435

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5582168	A	10-12-1996	US 5203328 A	20-04-1993
			AT 158704 T	15-10-1997
			AU 661026 B2	13-07-1995
			AU 2373392 A	23-02-1993
			CA 2113268 A1	04-02-1993
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			DE 69222535 T2	26-03-1998
			EP 0597932 A1	25-05-1994
			ES 2110007 T3	01-02-1998
			JP 7500030 T	05-01-1995
			WO 9301745 A1	04-02-1993
US 6226089	B1	01-05-2001	JP 2000037355 A	08-02-2000
EP 0722692	A	24-07-1996	US 5553617 A	10-09-1996
			CA 2166006 A1	21-07-1996
			EP 0722692 A1	24-07-1996
			JP 3129956 B2	31-01-2001
			JP 8238221 A	17-09-1996